

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-11, 14 and 16 are pending in the application. Claim 1, 7 and 10 have been amended herein. Claims 6, 12-13 and 15 have been canceled herein without prejudice. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 14 and 16. In addition, Applicants note with appreciation the indicated allowability of claims 1-5, 8, 9, 11-13 and 15 subject to being amended to independent form.

Claim 1 has been amended here to incorporate all the limitations recited in claim 6, which has been indicated its allowability. Therefore, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-5 and 7-11 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

II. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-5, 8-9, 11-13 AND 15 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 AND 103

All pending claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above-identified claim amendments. Thus, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

III. CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 510-843-6200, ext. 245.

Respectfully submitted,
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Limited Recognition under 37 CFR § 10.9(b)

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